

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Capital Engineers began life as a revised and expanded version of Albert E. Cowdrey's *A City for the Nation: The Army Engineers and the Building of Washington, 1790–1967* (1979). The only one of Cowdrey's six chapters to be completely rewritten was the first devoted to L'Enfant's design for the federal city. Occasional paragraphs and frequent sentences from his other five chapters were incorporated in the text of *Capital Engineers*, as was some text taken from manuscripts for new final chapters by Roberta Weiner on file in the Office of History.

Capital Engineers benefited from a wide range of contemporary scholarship on Washington's built environment including unpublished Ph.D. dissertations and reports by government agencies as well as recent and older books, articles, and newspaper accounts. The result remains an overview of the Corps' extensive contributions towards making Washington one of the world's great cities. Readers might expect bridges and management of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, possibly even the engineering expertise to raise the Washington Monument to its lofty height, but most will be surprised by the Engineer Commissioners' nearly century-long service as the city's leading municipal authorities. Every part of public and private Washington has been informed by decisions made by a Corps engineer.

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